

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Claims 2 and 15 have been cancelled.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising program instructions stored by a computer-readable medium for directing operations of a computer during specification of an integrated circuit, comprising:

first computer program code that enables a user to specify the existence of uncertainty in at –a least one circuit; ~~and~~

second computer program code that automatically implements the specified uncertainty as at least one programmable circuit; and

third computer program code that optimizes an implementation of the at least one programmable circuit in view of at least one predetermined performance constraint, where said third computer program code operates to simplify a circuit network obtained by operation of said second computer program code by using logic synthesis optimizations in accordance with at least one assertion.

2. (Canceled).
3. (Original) A computer program product as in claim 1, where said first computer program code implements an Uncertain Function that is used in place of a logic function or operator.
4. (Original) A computer program product as in claim 3, where said Uncertain Function comprises an at least partly unspecified Boolean logic function with multiple inputs and multiple outputs.
5. (Original) A computer program product as in claim 3, where said Uncertain Function comprises a selectable Boolean logic function having an input used to select one of a plurality of fully specified logic functions.
6. (Original) A computer program product as in claim 3, where said Uncertain Function comprises a Boolean logic function having a set of input parameters used to determine a specific logic function to be implemented.
7. (Original) A computer program product as in claim 3, where said first computer program code implements an Uncertain Function Assertion for imposing at least one constraint on the Uncertain Function.
8. (Original) A computer program product as in claim 7, where said Uncertain Function

Assertion comprises at least one of an Input Assertion that uses a Boolean expression to specify a constraint on an input value and an Output Assertion that uses a Boolean expression to specify a constraint on an output value.

9. (Original) A computer program product as in claim 7, where said Uncertain Function Assertion comprises an Input/Output Assertion that uses a Boolean expression to specify a constraint on a relation between input and output values.

10. (Original) A computer program product as in claim 7, where said Uncertain Function Assertion comprises a Dependency Assertion for defining which inputs determine which outputs.

11. (Original) A computer program product as in claim 3, where said first computer program code implements an Uncertain Constant having a predetermined number of bits.

12. (Original) A computer program product as in claim 1, where said first computer program code implements an Uncertain Register as a register having a programmable size within a specified range.

13. (Original) A computer program product as in claim 1, where said integrated circuit is implemented at least in part as a hardwired application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), and where said at least one programmable circuit is implemented as a field programmable gate array (FPGA).

14. (Original) A computer program product as in claim 1, where said integrated circuit is implemented at least in part as a hardwired application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), and where said at least one programmable circuit is implemented as an ASIC in combination with a programmable memory component that provides at least one control input to said programmable circuit.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as in claim 1 ~~15~~, where said at least one assertion comprises at least one of Input, Output and Input/Output assertions that introduce constraints that reduce the complexity of a final circuit implementation, and Dependency assertions that eliminate inputs from selected outputs.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as in claim 1 ~~2~~, where said third computer program code operates to map a circuit network obtained by operation of said first and second program code to at least one specific logic technology.

18. (Original) A computer program product as in claim 17, where said integrated circuit is implemented at least in part as a hardwired application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), and where said at least one programmable circuit is implemented as a field programmable gate array (FPGA), and where said third computer program code operates to map FPGA components to an

FPGA section of the integrated circuit and to map ASIC components to an ASIC section of the integrated circuit.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as in claim 1 2, where said third computer program code selects a specific technology for implementing the at least one programmable circuit in view of the at least one performance constraint.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as in claim 1 2, where said at least one performance constraint comprises circuit timing imposed by clock signal constraints.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as in claim 1 2, where optimizing comprises a consideration of required circuit area versus operational performance.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer program product as in claim 1,~~ A computer program product comprising program instructions stored by a computer-readable medium for directing operations of a computer during specification of an integrated circuit, comprising:

first computer program code that enables a user to specify existence of uncertainty in at least one circuit;

second computer program code that automatically implements the specified uncertainty as at least one programmable circuit, and

~~further comprising additional~~ third computer program code for implementing a hardware bring-up operation wherein a hardware correspondence, derived from an Uncertain Synthesis process that is implemented using said first computer program code and said second computer program code, is read to establish a mapping of specific values to a hardware implementation of the integrated circuit, where specific values are read for each uncertain hardware entity and are used to implement the entity in the hardware.

23. (Original) A computer program product as in claim 22, where the Uncertain Synthesis process uses at least one of an Uncertain Function, an Uncertain Register, an Uncertain Constant and an Uncertain Assertion, and where the hardware comprises one of: an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) in combination with a field programmable gate array (FPGA), an ASIC in combination with a programmable memory, a FPGA, an ASIC in combination with a programmable memory and a FPGA, and an ASIC that uses flip-flops for programmability.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as in claim 1 2, where said third computer program code operates to optimize programmable logic using dependency assertions and analyzes specified input dependencies of logic components, disconnects non-dependant inputs, and applies minimization methods to reduce a resulting logic implementation.

25-51. (Canceled)

52. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as in claim 1, wherein the first and second computer program code is written in a register-transfer-level language.

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53. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as in claim 1, wherein the first and second computer program code is written in a gate-level-description language.